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Solar Basics

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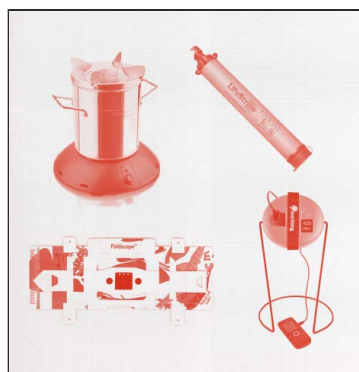
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Issue 9: Little Development Devices / Humanitarian Goods

Editors:STEPHEN J. COLLIER, JAMIE CROSS, PETER REDFIELD, and ALICE STREET



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This issue of Limn examines the recent profusion of micro-technologies in the worlds of humanitarianism and development, some focused on fostering forms of social improvement, others claiming to alleviate suffering, and many seeking to accomplish both. From water meters, micro-insurance and cash transfers, to solar lanterns, water filtration systems, and sanitation devices, examples proliferate across the early 21st century landscapes of international aid. Although small-scale endeavors are far from novel, today these devices are animated by different intellectual and moral energy, drawing on novel financial and organizational resources. Many blur distinctions between public and private interests, along with divisions between obligations, gifts and commodities. At the same time, they entail novel configurations of expertise, political obligation and forms of care. The articles in this issue explore these new convergences of developmental and

humanitarian projects, alongside reworked relationships between experts, governments, and purported beneficiaries, focused on fostering “participation” and “partnerships” rather than nation-building.

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FEATURING WORK BY

Stephen J. Collier, Jamie Cross,
Peter Redfield, Alice Street,
Austin Lord, Jonathan Morduch,
Brenda Chalfin, Xhulio Binjaku,
Meena Khandelwal, Kayley Lain,
Tatiana Thieme, Tom Scott-Smith,
Jacqueline Best, David Reubi,
Christopher M. Kelty,
Vincent Duclos, Anke Schwittay,
Paul Braund, Amy Moran-Thomas,
and Robert J. Foster

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Development Devices
/ Humanitarian Goods

A brief introduction to
the idea behind Issue
Number Nine, and the

concepts associated
with it.



Solar Basics

Jamie Cross explores
how a solar-powered
lamp became the go-
to solution to Puerto
Rico's energy crisis.



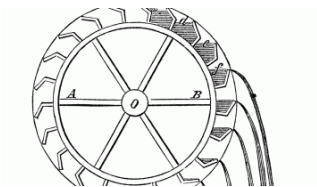
Deep Diagnostics

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Austin Lord considers the unstable politics of micro-hydropower development in the wake of Nepal's 2015 earthquake.



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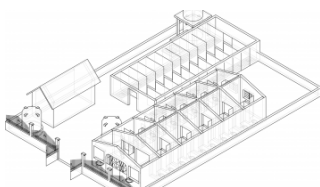
Credit Card?

Jonathan Morduch
traces the rise of
microfinance, and
argues that it's time
for a new vision.



EXCREMENTA I: Welcome to Excrementa

Brenda Chalfin and
Xhulio Binjaku
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“Water is life, but
sanitation is dignity”

Tatiana Thieme
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become an
opportunity for
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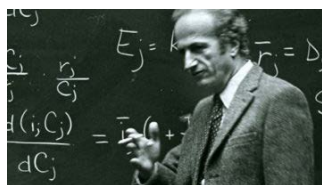
Tom Scott-Smith gets
inside an award-
winning shelter
designed for refugees
and asks: what
makes it any better
than a tent?



Governing Development Failure

How did little
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make their way into
big development
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Jacqueline Best
explores the history of
policy failure at the
World Bank.



Rational Sin

David Reubi explores
how Chicago
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The Participatory Development Toolkit

Christopher Kelty
opens up a toolkit
from the 1990s to
explore the prehistory
of apps, platforms,
and algorithms.



Demanding Mobile Health

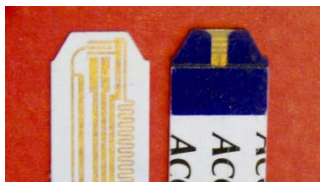
What are the
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requirements of
mobile health?
Vincent Duclos

reports on the
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Iterate, Experiment,
Prototype

Anke Schwittay and
Paul Braund explore
the curious
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Glucometer Foils

Amy Moran-Thomas
examines why
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Customer Care

Robert Foster explores how mobile phones in Papua New Guinea offer new ways for both companies and consumers to give and receive care.

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